(b) if so, the steps taken to supply LPG to rural areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Presently there is no backlog for LPG refills by the Public Sector Oil Companies to their consumers in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Production and Import of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2118. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum and natural gas produced in the country;

(b) the quantity of petroleum products imported from abroad and the annual cash outflow involved;

(c) whether the country is self-sufficient in natural gas;

(d) if not, the measures adopted to become self-sufficient; and

(e) what is the tentative total reserve of natural gas available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The production of crude oil and natural gas in the country during 1995-96 was 35.15 MMT and 22308 million cubic metres respectively.

(b) The quantity and value of imported products depends on the overall consumption, indigenous production and prices of crude oil and petroleum products prevailing in the international market.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The feasibility of importing natural gas from Oman and Iran and LNG is being explored.

(e) Total reserves of natural gas in the country are 752.58 BCM as on 1.4.1996.

Petroleum Refinery in Kerala

2119. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up a petroleum refinery by KSIDC in Kerala is pending in the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what is its present position and by when clearance would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up a 9 MMTPA Refinery by M/s. KSIDC at Kasergode in Kerala has not been considered feasible in view of the demand-supply balance in the Region.

Privatisation of Water Supply & Sewarage Disposal Systems

2120. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise the water supply and sewerage disposal systems in big cities; and

(b) if so, by when and the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Bidding Rounds for Oil Exploration

2121. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exploration rounds for bidding offered to private enterpreneurs for oil exploration in the country during the last three years;